ENDLESS **OPPORTUNITIES**

GOING FORWARD PART THREE



RON CROSS

The previous two mailers have featured items that I feel are important for the new leadership to consider going forward in 2019. While not in order of priority, the first three were very fundamental, but the next three were also extremely important. Thus far we have discussed the following topics:

- 1. CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN AND FUND PUBLIC SAFETY.
- 2. FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY
- 3. MAINTAIN THE EXISTING PROFESSIONAL STAFF
- 4. CONTINUE TO APPROVE SPLOST AND T-SPLOST.
- 5. FOLLOW THE GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLAN.
- 6. MAINTAIN STRICT BUILDING STANDARDS AND DENSITY CONTROL.

And now on to the next suggestion in "Going Forward."

NUMBER SEVEN

KEEP UP THE EFFORTS FOR A COLUMBIA COUNTY HOSPITAL:

It has been almost six years since Scott Johnson and I visited the Department of Community Health in Atlanta and mapped out the path to secure a hospital for the largest county in Georgia without one. We got a great reception and were told that there was a definite route that we could take under the Certificate of Need (CON) process. We did all of that, and a CON was granted to the previous Medical College of Georgia, now Augusta University (AU).

Since that time almost four years ago, the Humana Corporation Administration, parent of Doctors Hospital in Richmond County, has delayed that process by continuing to file legal objections in court. AU has won every suit thus far, but appeals of those decisions and new filings has continued to halt construction. Dr. Keel and his AU staff are ready to begin the building process and continue to defend that right in court.

Hopefully, this nightmare of legalese will end soon, and we can finally have our own hospital and medical research facility. We knew it would not be easy, and we must be patient and continue the dream. Meanwhile, the fine folks at University Hospital, Augusta University, and Doctors Hospital continue to give excellent care to our citizens from their facilities in Richmond County.

NUMBER EIGHT

CONTINUE TO GROW OUR BROADBAND NETWORK:

Columbia County was the only county in Georgia that received a broadband grant from the federal government during the stimulus program in 2013. Lewis Foster, Broadband Manager, and his staff did an excellent job of filtering through all the federal requirements and numerous resubmissions to obtain this grant. Combined with some county funds we were able to install 200 miles of fiber optic cable across the county and interconnect all county operations, public safety, and the school system. Presently, under the leadership of Deputy Administrator Glenn Kennedy and Technology Services Director Michael Blanchard, Columbia County is leasing "dark fiber" space to many private companies and public utilities. With the emphasis continually on faster internet speeds, our network is extremely attractive to internet providers. Remember, we don't compete with the private sector, but we can lease them fiber and/or conduit space to convey their signals to anywhere in the world. We do not generate signal nor connectivity, but we can provide a network that a private entity could not afford to install. This is not only a great revenue source for the county for many years to come, but also a great public service to our citizens.

NUMBER NINE

This topic is really two items that may not need immediate attention and probably do not have the magnitude of the previous eight, but will need discussion in the near future

- 1. PUBLIC TRANSIT: This topic has received much discussion in the past several years, and while we have reached the population threshold required by GDOT to consider public transit, we are not required to provide it. We do currently have an on-demand transit system with ten small buses to provide transportation for our citizens at a minimal cost. The question in Columbia County is, where exactly would the transit routes go and how would it be financed? We do not have population centers that have large concentrations of people that would justify fixed stops on a daily basis. Our main traffic, other than to schools, is to downtown Augusta, Fort Gordon, and the Savannah River Site. Also, the Augusta Transit staff has offered to extend their service further into Columbia County, but thus far, we have not this as seen a real advantage for our citizens. This topic will need to be discussed further in the future as we attempt to create our own downtown area.
- 2. RETENTION OF GOOD EMPLOYEES: In times of a booming economy employment opportunities for well-qualified personnel are numerous. Our county has lost several good employees recently to private companies who offer amazing salaries and benefits. We are also having extreme difficulty in filling many trade type positions because of the huge amount of work available in the service industry. Of course, this will be a different story when the economy changes and the private sector has more employees than they need. But in the meantime, it puts the public employers in a bind and puts an additional burden on the remainder of our staff. The new commission must consider what steps are available to retain the most valuable personnel if the booming economy continues and if the county should consider the impact of the "livable wage" concept.

It should go without saying that all of the topics reviewed above and in the last two mailers are not new to the returning three commissioners. We have regular conversations about these and many other areas of concern and the best way to approach old and new items to best benefit the county. For the new commissioners, hopefully, it will give them some background about current decisions and help them in dealing with the many decisions they will have to make going forward. They will see some of the present commission's success and failures and form their own visions of what should occur in the future. Ideally, they all will continue to have the best interest of the total county at heart.

COLUMBIA COUNTY ORCHESTRA UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2018

11th Annual - "Handel's MESSIAH Sing-In" Singers welcome to sing with the orchestra: Rehearsal at 4:30 PM. Concert dress for singers - All black.

Concert 6 PM at Kiokee Baptist Church Sanctuary in Appling, GA

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2018

Christmas POPS Concert 7 PM at Hardin Auditorium of the Evans, GA Columbia County Library

FREE ADMISSION FOR ALL PERFORMANCES. (DONATIONS ACCEPTED.)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ALL OF THESE EVENTS, PLEASE GO TO WWW.COLUMBIACCO.ORG



TICKETS NOW AT JLAUGUSTA.ORG

NOVEMBER 10-12, 2017 COLUMBIA COUNTY EXHIBITION CENTER

FRIDAY SATURDAY

SUNDAY

10am-6pm

11am-4pm

PROCEEDS FROM THIS YEAR'S HOLIDAY MARKET HELP SUPPORT







November 3, 2018

7:00-10:00 PM

JSH Performing Arts Center at the Columbia County Library 7055 Evans Town Center Blvd, Evans GA

Free and Open to the Public Complimentary hors d'oeuvres Cash Bar Silent Auction Live Jazz

Art for Sale by Artist Guild members



For more information: 706-722-7659 www.chabadaugusta.org

GREATER CLARKS HILL REGIONAL LIBRARIES • NOVEMBER 2018

Adult Programs

Columbia County/Evans Library

English as a Second Language (ESL) Classes

Tuesdays • 10:30 am-12:00 pm

Classes are free and open to adults whose first language is not English. There will be no class on November 20th.

NanoWrimo Kickoff

Thursday, November 1 • 5:00-7:00 pm

Join us in the library café to meet your fellow Wrimos!

Fiber Arts Craft & Chat

Thursday, November 1 & 15 • 5:30-7:30 pm

This group meets the first and third Thursday of each month in the café area and is open to all crafters: crochet, knit, loom, cross stitch, etc. This low-key crafting meet-up is open to people who want to learn as well as those already crafty.

Adult Walk-In Guitar Lessons

Thursdays, November 1 & 15 • 4:00 pm

Always wanted to play guitar? Come for free basic lessons for adults every first and third Thursday from 4:00 to 5:00. No registration necessary. Call 706-447-7667 for more info.

Adult Guitar Club

Thursdays, November 1 & 15 • 6:00-7:30 pm Experienced adult players, this is a chance to get together with

Nano for November

Sundays, November 4, 11, 18, & 25 • 2:30-4:30 pm

other adult guitar players to swap tips and songs.

Join us for an opportunity to sprint your way to your weekly writing goals!

Doodle Hour-Adult Coloring

Mon, Nov 5 • 6:30 pm & Wed, Nov 7 • 12:00 pm

Coloring books are perfect for stressed out adults. You've seen the trend, now try it!

Chess Part 1

Tuesday, November 6 • 5:30-7:30 pm

Class is open to all ages! You can attend the class with no previous experience and learn all the fundamentals enabling you to leave with the ability to play a game of chess. Experienced players may learn something new.

In-home Care Information Hosted by Focus on You

Wednesday, November 7 • 10:30 am

There's a new, affordable alternative available to those who want consistent, high quality in-home care. Join us to learn all about it and get your questions answered!

Call 706-863-1946, ext. 4 to register.

Birding

Thursday, November 8 • 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Come and learn the basics of bird watching and participate in a bird watching session right at the Library! Expect to see new and exciting kinds of birds due to the time of year!

Gadget Help with Alex

Thursday, November 8 • 1:30-3:30 pm

Drop by the Library during these times to get individual help with your electronic gadgets. First come, first serve; no appointment necessary.

Foster Parent Information Session

Thursday, November 8 • 6:30 pm

Want to know more about becoming a foster parent or how you can help a child in need? Be the change that matters in a child's life at the time they most need it.

Estate Planning & Elder Care

Friday, November 9 • 11:00 am

Hear legal strategies to protect your family and estate including: wills & trusts, estate planning, probate avoidance, powers of attorney, Medicaid and VA planning as well as the VA Aid & Attendance Benefit. Burroughs + Elijah hosts. Call 706-863-1946, ext. 4 to register.

Pub Fiction Book Club

Monday, November 12 • 7:00 pm • Pizza Central, Evans Join us at Pizza Central in Evans for this month's book selection: *A* Sudden Light by Garth Stein.

Foster Parent Information Session

Tuesday, November 13 • 12:30 pm

Want to know more about becoming a foster parent or how you can help a child in need? Be the change that matters in a child's life at the time they most need it.

Chess Part 2

Tuesday, November 13 • 5:30-7:30 pm

The second in a series of three classes that are open to all ages. This class will build on the previous one's teachings and focus on more advanced aspects of the game.

Google School

Wednesday, November 14 • 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Learn how to search in Google and about it's many services, such as books, maps, and shopping. Call 706-863-1946, ext 4 to register.

Raspberry Pi

Wednesday, November 14 • 1:30-3:30 pm

Introduction to Raspberry Pi (mini Computer) fun projects! Learn the basics of buttons and wiring Physical Computing Projects with the Raspberry Pi! Projects include Reaction Time Button game and Pi-powered Whoopee Cushion. Call 706-863-1946, ext. 4 to register.

Brown Bag Book Discussion

Thursday, November 15 • 11:30 am-1:00 pm

This month's book selection is *The Irregular* by H. B. Lyle.

Score Workshop Series

Thursday, November 15 • 1:00-3:00 pm

Thinking of starting a business? These workshops are for you! Register at greateraiken.score.org.

Internet Shopping & Digital Couponing

Thursday, November 15 • 5:30-7:30 pm

Learn how to get the best deals online, including multiple store searches for products, overview of Ebay, and how to use online coupons. Call 706-863-1946, ext. 4 to register.

FirstOneStep07

Thursday, November 15 • 6:00 pm

Support group for new amputees and their family members to connect with others who have overcome similar challenges.

Bookkeeping, Payroll & Business Financial Seminar

Friday, November 16 • 12:00-2:00 pm

A bookkeeping, payroll and business finance seminar is being presented by Tabitha Hollimon, MBA, EA and owner of Avail Bookkeeping and Tax Services. Call 706-863-1946, ext. 4 to register.

Holiday Blues

Monday, November 19 • 12:00 pm

Overcoming the "Holiday Blues," a quick guide to aid you through the season with Stephanie Nichols, LCSW. Call 706-863-1946 ext 4 to register.

Monday Night Book Discussion

Monday, November 19 • 6:30 pm

This month's book selection is *The Great Alone* by Kristin Hannah.

Library Chess Tournament

Tuesday, November 20 • 5:30-7:30 pm

You've learned the basics, now join us for putting those to use and have fun with a tournament! All ages and skills are welcome, attending the previous classes is not a requirement.

Facebook

Wednesday, November 21 • 10:00 am-12:00 pm

(Requirement: Must already have a Facebook account to attend.) This class covers the basics of using Facebook including friends' lists, controlling what others see, and security. Call 706-863-1946, ext. 4 to register.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK STORE IN EVANS LIBRARY:

OPEN MON, TUES, THURS 10 AM-8 PM • WED, FRI, SAT 10 AM-5PM • SUN 2-5 PM

Adult Programs

Snapchat/Instagram

Wednesday, November 21 • 1:30-3:30 pm Learn the basics of Instagram and Snapchat. Call 706-863-1946, ext. 4 to register.

Gadgets and Gifts

Tuesday, November 27 • 5:30-7:30 pm This class is designed to help patrons shop for electronic gadgets

Genealogy Military Records

Friday, November 30 • 10:00-11:30 am

and gifts. Call 706-863-1946 ext 4 to register.

Become familiar with military records available for various eras in US history and discover how to access them. Call 706-863-1946, ext. 4 to register.

Euchee Creek Library

Beginner Crochet

Wednesday, November 7 • 1:30 pm

Fun and informal. Supplies provided. No registration required.

Columbia County Genealogical Society

Thursday, November 8 • 1:00 pm

Genealogy club for all ages. No registration required.

Fiber Arts Craft & Chat

Wednesdays, November 14 & 28 • 2:00-4:00 pm Bring your own projects - crochet, knit, loom, cross stitch, etc. and socialize with others.

Adult Time Out

Thursday, November 15 • 11:00 am Join us for a holiday ornament craft. Registration required.

Sewing for Beginners

Thursday, November 15 • 1:00-3:00 pm Make a scarf and a hat. Registration required. On The Same Page Bookclub

Thursday, November 29 • 10:30 am

The November selection is A Second Helping by Beverly Jenkins.

Harlem Library

Doodle Hour

Monday, November 5 • 2:00 pm

Join us for an enjoyable hour of coloring and relaxing!

Crochet Class

Thursday, November 8 & 29 • 10:30 am

Join us for a fun hour of crocheting! This class is in 2 sessions, and you must register for both.

Open Sewing

Tuesdays, November 13 & 27 • 3:00 pm

Bring your projects and use our machines to finish them! Registration required.

Harlem Book Club

Thursday, November 15 • 4:00 pm

Join us to discuss The Christmas Train by David Baldacci.

Bingo for Books

Friday, November 16 • 10:00 am

Join us for Bingo, prizes, and refreshments! Registration required.

Crafternoon

Wednesday, November 21 • 1:00 pm

Come join us for a fun hour of crafting! Registration required.

Teen Programs

Columbia County/Evans Library

Young Makers Program

Monday, November 5 • 4:00-5:30 pm

This Makerspace program is geared especially for children ages 8-12. Kids will learn about science, engineering, and design with hands-on experiences.

Otaku-Rabu Club

Tuesday, November 6 • 5:00-6:30 pm

Join us for a screening of this season's most popular anime! This month's selection is Attack on Titan.

Tabletop Gaming

Saturday, November 10 • 1:00-4:00 pm

Looking for a group to play with, or just need a place for your group to meet? Join us for some casual fun. Ages 13 and up.

Beginner's Guitar Class

Tuesday, November 13 • 4:00 pm

This guitar class is for ages 11-18. If you do not have your own guitar, we have up to 6 guitars for class use. Registered students can drop in any time from 4:00-5:00 pm for instruction. Call 706-863-1946 ext 4 to register.

Teen Art Class

Wednesday, November 14 • 4:00 pm

Join us for beginner's lessons in art! Call 706-863-1946 ext 4 to register.

Makerspace

Monday, November 19 • 4:00-5:30 pm

Teens 13-18 will work on their own projects under staff guidance while using library equipment including CAD software, development software, a 3D scanner, a 3D printer, soldering equipment, and general electronics tools.

Beginner Coding Class

Tuesday, November 20 • 4:00 pm

We will be teaching the basics of coding in Java. Call 706-863-1946 ext 4 to register.

Sewn Gifts

Monday, November 26 • 4:30-6:30 pm

Join us to make a simple gift and learn some sewing skills in the process. Sewing machines and materials will be provided. Call 706-863-1946 ext 4 to register.

Teen Guitar Club

Tuesday, November 27 • 4:00 pm

Meet to discuss and share guitar tips, techniques, advice, etc.

Teen Advisory Board

Thursday, November 29 • 4:00 pm

Help us decide what programs to offer this year while getting volunteer credit.

Euchee Creek Library

Teen Planning Pizza Party

Saturday, November 3 • 12:30 pm

Help plan teen programming and enjoy pizza and activities.

Anime Club

Monday, November 19 • 4:30 pm

Join us for a screening of this season's most popular anime!

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK STORE IN EVANS LIBRARY: OPEN MON, TUES, THURS 10 AM-8 PM • WED, FRI, SAT 10 AM-5PM • SUN 2-5 PM

Children's & Family Programs

Columbia County/Evans Library Child Enrichment through November 15:

Join us each week for fun programs! Learn and practice new and engaging ways of helping your child develop early literacy

Child Enrichment marked with ** requires registration.

- · Crawlers & Pre-Walkers: Tues · 10:15 am *
- Baby & Me: Tues 11:00 am & Weds 10:15 & 11:00 am **
- Two-ddlers: Mon, Weds, Thurs 10:15 am
- Preschoolers: Mon, Weds, Thurs 11:00 am
- · Afternoon Adventures: Thurs · 4:30 pm

Call 706-863-1946 ext 3 for information or to register for children's programs.

Month of November • all day Dino-tastic activities all month - coloring pages, scavenger hunt, and felt table fun!

Book a Bunny

Tuesdays • 4:30-5:30 pm

Book an appointment to read to Reggie the library bunny! Appointments last approximately 20 minutes. Call or visit the children's desk to schedule an appointment. Grades 1-5.

Write a Letter to Your Favorite Author

Thursday, November 1 • all day

Join us at the children's desk to celebrate National Authors Day by writing a letter to your favorite author! If you'd like to mail your letter, please bring your own stamp. Otherwise, we will post your letters on Facebook and tag the authors!

Puppetry Workshop: Spider Marionette Puppet

Thursday, November 1 • 6:00 pm

Learn all about spiders via video conference with the Center for Puppetry Arts while creating a spider marionette puppet! The Center for Puppetry Arts based in Atlanta, Ga. in partnership with Georgia Public Library Services brings us this wonderful program. Register at puppetry-workshop.eventbrite.com.

Sensory Class

Friday, November 2 • 11:00 am

Join us for interactive stories, games, songs, and activities! We welcome children and caregivers of all abilities to this class. Call 706-863-1946 ext 3 for details and registration.

Dinovember Kick Off

Friday, November 2 • 3:00-4:30 pm

Join us for a roaring good time to kick off Dinovember!

Orchestra Petting Zoo

Thursday, November 8 • 4:30 pm

Do you want to learn how to play an instrument? Not sure where to start? Drop-In on our instrument petting zoo and let Rob Nordan, director of CCO Orchestra, help you decide!

Dress Like a Dinosaur Day

Thursday, November 15 • all day

Visit the children's department dressed in your finest dinosaur gear to take a picture at our photo booth and receive a small prize! No dinosaur gear? No problem. We've got you covered with plenty of dino

Morris Museum

Monday, November 19 • 11:00 am

Join our friends from the Morris Museum for a craft and stories!

Make & Take Craft Drop-In

November 19-21 & 26-30 • 10:30 am- 4:00 pm

Make one to help us decorate our tree or windows! Take one home to decorate yours! Supplies will be available at the children's information desk.

Baby Explorers

Tuesday, November 20 • 10:30 am

Drop in with your little explorers for this playtime for babies and toddlers!

Family Movie Night

Tuesday, November 20 • 5:30 pm

Watch The Good Dinosaur on the big screen in Hardin Auditorium. All

T-Rex Tea Party

Thursday, November 29 • 4:30 pm

If you love tea and dinosaurs, then this is the family event for you! Join us to see if your tea-time manners are more gracious than Cretaceous. We will be reading "Tea Rex" by Molly Idle, enjoying light refreshments, and possibly being visited by a dino-tastic friend! Call 706-863-1946 ext 3 for details and registration.

Euchee Creek Library

Child Enrichment:

- · Baby & Me: Tues · 10:30 am
- · Child Enrichment: Tues · 4:15 pm
- Child Enrichment: Weds •10:30 am

Super Novas Club

Monday, November 5 • 4:30 pm

Extract DNA from a strawberry! Grades 2-5.

Minecraft Club

Saturday, November 10 • 11:00 am -1:00 pm

Bring your own device or laptop with Minecraft already loaded.

Columbia County Orchestra "Petting Zoo"

Thursday, November 15 • 10:30 am

We're proud to have the Columbia County Orchestra visit with lots of instruments for you to "pet." Children and adults of all ages are invited to drop by to hear, touch, and play the instruments of your choice.

Family Game Night

Monday, November 26 • 4:30 pm

Games for the whole family. No registration required.

Harlem Library Columbia County Orchestra "Petting Zoo"

Thursday, November 1 • 5:30 pm

We're proud to have the Columbia County Orchestra visit with lots of instruments for you to "pet." Children and adults of all ages are invited to drop by to hear, touch, and play instruments

Child Enrichment

Tuesdays, November 13, 20, & 27 • 10:30 am Join us for a fun hour of stories and coloring!

Fall Carnival

Saturday, November 17 • 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Join us for a fun morning Fall Carnival. There will be a petting zoo, bounce house, games, Princess visit with Anna and Elsa, face painting

Need more information? Contact your local branch:

- Evans: 706-863-1946
- Euchee Creek: 706-556-0594
- Harlem: 706-650-5009

ALL COLUMBIA COUNTY LIBRARIES WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12, IN HONOR OF VETERANS DAY. ALL COLUMBIA COUNTY LIBRARIES WILL BE CLOSED THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22-SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25 IN HONOR OF THANKSGIVING. BOOK DROPS WILL BE LOCKED TO PREVENT ANY OVERFILLING.



COLUMBIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S CORNER

HILD PASSENGER SAFETY

GA LAW says that children must be in some type of child restraint until age 8. That does not mean that age 8 is a magic number and ALL children that are 8 years of age can ride in a seat belt correctly.

CHILDREN SHOULD BE rear facing until at least age 2 and keep them rear facing until they outgrow the seat. Rear facing is much safer for the child's neck and spine. You should never put a rear facing child restraint in the front

AFTER AGE 2, (or when the child outgrows the rear facing seat) use a forward facing seat with a harness. Keep them in the harness seat until they outgrow the seat.

BOOSTER SEAT - not until at least age 4 and 40 lbs. Keep the child in the booster seat until the child is at least 4'9 and 90-100 lbs. How many 8 year olds are 4'9 and weigh 100 lbs?

NEVER USE a booster seat with a lap belt ONLY. A booster seat must be used with a lap AND shoulder belt.

KIDS 12 AND UNDER should always ride in the back seat. **SCHOOL BUSES** are 8 to 10 times safer than passenger vehicles.

FIVE STEP TEST FOR USING THE SEATBELT ONLY:

SEATBELT is across the shoulder and not the neck LOWER BACK and rear end is against the bight of the seat KNEES bend at the seat and do not stick out straight LAP BELT sits on thighs and hips and not the stomach **CHILD** can ride like this the entire trip

GOLD ★ SILVER ★ CURRENCY ★ TOKENS ★ EXONUMIA ★ JEWELRY ★ COLLECTIBLES ★ S



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16™& ADMISSION SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. YN PROGRAM SATURDAY NOON

COLUMBIA COUNTY EXHIBITION CENTER 212 Partnership Drive - Grovetown, Georgia Exit 190 on I-20, go south one block, turn left and drive straight into Exhibition Center.

Saturday at 4:00 p.m. Purchase tickets from Club Members or at Registration.

Sponsored by: AUGUSTA COIN CLUE



2018 is ending on a BRIGHT note. Join us as we fill the park with Christmas cheer. Vendor village, pictures with Santa, movie nights, and THOUSANDS of lights! December 1: 18th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting EVZNYGTOWNEGENTERPARKGOM

REDEVELOPMENT POWERS

KNOW THE FACTS



It is not a tax increase



It is not a government handout



At least 48 **TADs** have been created in Georgia

ON THE BALLOT, NOVEMBER 6th



Promotes privately funded redevelopment



Establishes special fund for redevelopment costs



Redevelopment plans for TADs forecast >\$18 B in investment